

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 28, 1992

Published Since 1877

Renewed Muslim clashes leave Nigerian Baptists dead

By Erich Bridges

KADUNA, Nigeria (BP) — Renewed battles between Muslims and Christians in northern Nigeria reportedly have killed dozens of people, including some Baptists.

"(Missionaries) have word of individual pastors and Baptists they knew and Christians from other denominations who have been killed," said Betty Kay Yamaoka of the Foreign Mission Board. "Some churches have been burned."

Yamaoka, associate area director for mission work in west Africa, spoke to missionary Ray Davidson in Kaduna by phone May 18. No missionaries were harmed, Davidson said, but a number of Nigerian Chris-

tians were killed.

The rioting began in two northern towns May 17 when anger over the moving of a market from a Christian to a Muslim area exploded into violence, according to the Associated Press.

The fighting spread the next day to the cities of Kaduna and Zaria, where Southern Baptist missionaries work. Muslim rioters also approached the Baptist pastors' school in the area several times threatening violence, Davidson reported. They were turned away, first by police and later by students on campus.

Islam dominates northern Nigeria and many young Muslims have joined fundamentalist

Muslim groups. Meanwhile, more people from the Christian south have moved into the area. "It's a powder keg situation waiting for someone to throw a match," Yamaoka observed.

Besides Davidson, of Valdosta, Ga., and his wife, Ginny, of Lyons, Kan., Southern Baptist missionaries in Kaduna and Zaria include Bob and Martha Hall of Springfield, Mo.; Charles and Carrie Hedrick of Mount Vernon and Maysville, Ky., respectively; Payton and Helen Myers of West Point, Miss.; Clint and Harriet Bowman of Waycross, Ga., and Mendenhall, Miss., respectively; and D'Anna Shotts of Martinsville, Ill.

Bridges writes for FMB.

WMU committee asks CBF, SBC leaders to talk

By Susan Todd Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship met May 18 with 14 leaders of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to discuss changing roles in world missions.

The group did not issue a report on the dialogue nor did it indicate recommendations stemming from the meeting would follow.

The WMU leaders have also issued an invitation to SBC leadership. These two invitations are part of a series of meetings WMU plans to have with leaders across the convention.

Representing the Fellowship were John Hewett, past moderator; Cecil Sherman, coordinator; and Pat Ayres, newly elected moderator.

The meeting at the national WMU headquarters was the first between the Fellowship leaders and members of a WMU special long-range study committee.

The WMU long-range study committee was named by national WMU President Carolyn Miller during the January 1992

WMU executive board meeting. Miller asked the group to explore action plans and strategies to enable WMU to strengthen its involvement in missions. The committee is made up of representatives from the national WMU staff, current and former national WMU executive board members, state WMU staffs and current and former national WMU officers.

"We feel it is important to talk with representatives of all groups of Southern Baptists about missions," said Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director and a member of the study committee.

The most important thing for WMU to do at this point in Southern Baptist life is to serve all churches as they educate about and involve their members in missions, she said. "The best way for us to accomplish this is to listen, and be informed."

The study committee is expected to make its first report to the WMU executive board in June.

Doyle writes for WMU.

Although urged to withdraw, Pressler says he has support

By Herb Hollinger

HOUSTON (BP) — Although urged to withdraw as a nominee for the Foreign Mission Board by a number of SBC leaders, Judge Paul Pressler insists he has a lot of supporters and is still a nominee.

In an interview with Baptist Press, Pressler responded to an Associated Baptist Press May 14 story which said a number of SBC leaders had a conference call with him urging him to voluntarily withdraw as a nominee before the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis, June 9-11.

"I have received two letters asking me to withdraw, one letter supporting my nomination," Pressler, of Houston, said. "I have received four negative calls (on the nomination) but 50 calls which were supportive."

Former SBC presidents Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines, Jimmy Draper, Morris Chapman, presidential candidate Ed Young, and SBC

Executive Committee member Fred Wolfe, according to the ABP story, held a conference call with Pressler in which they asked him to consider withdrawing his nomination.

Also, Bill Hancock, Kentucky pastor and recent chairman of the FMB board of trustees, said he called Pressler and expressed his concern that Pressler's nomination would be a "poor action."

"It distresses me that those of us, leaders of the conservative resurgence, would try to extend authority and control (of the SBC) by rotating from board to board," Hancock told Baptist Press. There are many strong leaders from the various state conventions who could serve and the SBC would profit, Hancock said.

"I'm not opposed to Pressler, I'm opposed to the image of a few people controlling the boards and agencies," Hancock said.

Hollinger is director of BP.

Lawmakers need input from voters on fetal transplantation issue

A bill to legalize fetal tissue transplantation was to be voted on as early as Wednesday May 27 by the U. S. House of Representatives and by the U. S. Senate shortly thereafter. The bill HR 2507 is a conference report to fund the National Institutes of Health; however, a major portion of the bill would allow the harvesting of tissue from unborn children to be used in medical procedures and research. Such a law would result in the desire to abort children for the purpose of tissue harvesting and increase the frequency of commercial abortion.

Some pro-abortion members of Congress and their allies in the press are claiming that this is a

"health research issue," not an "abortion issue."

This claim should be rejected, according to Paul G. Jones, director-treasurer, Christian Action Commission. "Regardless of worthy motives or cosmetic 'safeguards' supposedly included in the bill, research that is directly dependent on the killing of innocent unborn children has everything to do with abortion," Jones said. "The price for medical progress cannot be moral regress."

Immediate action is required if such a proposal is defeated. Jones asked, "Will you call today your representative and our two senators and enlist five others to do the same?" Their names and phone numbers are listed at right:

Senator Thad Cochran
(202) 224-5054

Senator Trent Lott
(202) 224-6253

Rep. Mike Parker
(202) 225-5865
1-800-247-9395

Rep. Sonny Montgomery
(202) 225-5031

Rep. Jamie Whitten
(202) 225-4306

Rep. Mike Espy
(202) 225-5876

Rep. Gene Taylor
(202) 225-5772
1-800-273-4363

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting presents awards to local churches

A number of Mississippi Baptists churches were recognized with awards during the Sixth Annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting meeting held recently at Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson:

Awards for Television and Video
BEST PROGRAM—MISSIONS/EVANGELISM: Tambre & Company, First Church, Hattiesburg
BEST PROGRAM—CHURCH MUSICALS: Christmas is Calling You Home, First Church, Madison
BEST PROGRAM—HUMAN INTEREST: MVP Spirit (NFL Special), Anderson

Productions, Jackson
BEST PROGRAM—COMMUNITY SERVICE/SPORTS: William Carey College Men's Basketball, First Church, Hattiesburg
BEST SPOT—CO-WINNER: Ponder's Western Auto, First Church, Brandon
BEST SPOT—CO-WINNER: Marvelous Mondays In May, Main Street Church, Hattiesburg
CREATIVE USE OF VIDEO: The King's Support Network, Mason Photography, Jackson
Awards for Radio
BEST PROGRAM—MISSIONS/EVANGELISM: Speak Out, WHJT FM, Clinton

GELISM: Speak Out, WHJT FM, Clinton and Woodland Hills Church, Jackson
BEST PROGRAM—CHURCH MUSICALS: Christmas Cantatas, WHJT FM, Clinton
BEST PROGRAM—HUMAN INTEREST: Amy Grant Special, WHJT FM, Clinton and Rick Garner
BEST SPOT: "People Matter-Calvary Cares!" campaign, Calvary Church, Jackson
The awards were presented to the churches, local ACTS Boards, and other Christians at the banquet. There were 30 entries this year in radio, television, and video. One of

the primary objectives of MBIB is recognition of outstanding work being produced by churches and other Christian groups.

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting is sponsored by the Broadcast Services department of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Farrell Blankenship, director, and Judy Shelton, secretary.

Kurt Brautigam and Wayne Pierce of Hattiesburg were in charge of the awards presentations at the banquet. Jack Johnson, president of the Radio & Television Commission, SBC, presented the awards to the winners.

North Korean Christian student seeks religious asylum — in Russia

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — A North Korean student seeking asylum in Russia to obtain religious freedom is being sheltered in the Moscow apartment of South Korean Baptist pastor Lee Chul Soo.

Officials in communist North Korea reportedly ordered 31-year-old Kim Myung Seh, a doctoral student at Moscow University, to return home. Instead, Kim sought help from Lee, pastor of Han In Baptist Church in Moscow where Kim attends worship services.

A member of the ruling North Korean Workers' Party, Kim claims he has become a believer in Christianity. Since February he has served as Lee's Russian teacher and interpreter.

Shortly after Kim sought refuge at Lee's ninth-floor apartment in Moscow's Kacorinsky district, about 20 officials from the North

Korean Embassy arrived. They requested Kim to accompany them. When he refused, they threatened to break in and forcibly apprehend the North Korean expatriate.

Kim contacted South Korea's embassy for help. South Korean officials then asked the Russian government to intervene. Russia's foreign minister sent a representative who dispatched two policemen to guard Lee's apartment.

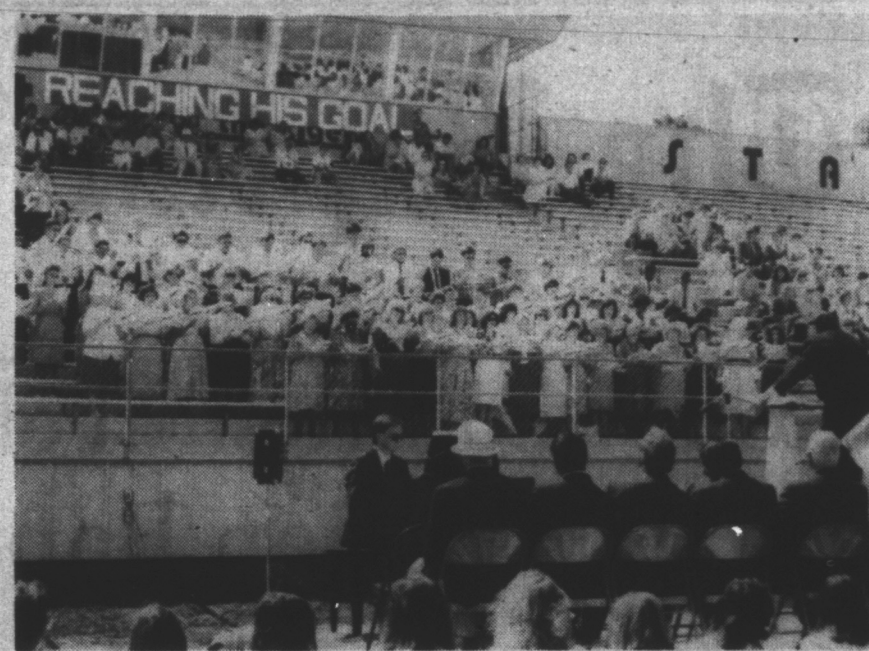
Kim sent a petition for political asylum directly to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Until government officials make a decision, Russian guards reportedly have instructions to keep Kim in — and the North Koreans out of — the apartment.

South Korea's "government has asked and will keep asking Russia not to return Kim Myung Seh to North Korea and to protect South Korean pastor Lee Chul Soo, who

is protecting Kim in his apartment," a foreign ministry official told the Korea Times.

North Korean officials contend Kim stole valuables from their embassy a year ago. They want Russia to extradite Kim to North Korea for indictment on those charges. The student apparently has evaded repatriation to North Korea since last October.

Lee works with ethnic Koreans living in Moscow. Under the sponsorship of his home church in South Korea, he has just started the Han In church, one of 17 Korean-speaking congregations in the Russian capital. Lee went to Moscow as an independent Baptist missionary last August to study the Russian language and lead Bible studies. He has been seeking a relationship with the newly established Foreign Mission Board of the Korea Baptist Convention.



World Mission Conference Rally, Booneville



Kammerdiener Smith

A World Mission Conference Rally was held May 3 in Northeast Community College Stadium, Booneville. John I. Jacobs, pastor, Pleasant Grove Church; and Director of Missions Harris Counce planned and directed the rally. Don Kammerdiener, far left, executive vice-president, Foreign Mission Board, addressed the mission rally; he spoke of the unprecedented opportunities of proclaiming Christ on foreign fields. L. Graham Smith, left, director of Church Music department, MBCB, led the singing. State, home, and foreign missionaries spoke in churches of the five participating associations throughout the conference week.

HMB directors tour New England, catch glimpse of James Currin's vision

BOSTON — New England is a land rich with Baptist history, and Southern Baptists are seeking to have an impact on the 13 million people who live here.

Members of the Home Mission Board's board of directors saw evidence of spiritual awakening during their annual awareness tour from April 29-May 5. Among the participants were J. Greg Martin of Long Beach; Liston L. Morris of Columbia; and Louie W. Odom of Pearl, board members from Mississippi.

Together with 30 other directors, HMB staff, and representatives from the Baptist Convention of New England, they viewed firsthand numerous mission sites

throughout the six-state region.

"We believe in doing God's work as missionaries-in-residence in New England," said Robert Brindle, acting executive director for the BCNE. Much of the vision for Southern Baptist work in New England came from James Currin, executive director from 1978 until his death earlier this year.

Currin's dream was to see 300 congregations in New England by the end of 1993. New England Baptists are edging toward that goal, with 202 already established.

"I've never seen God moving like he's moving here now," commented Larry Martin, director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association. "We are con-

vinced that revival is coming and it will change our lives and our churches," he added.

John Peverett, pastor of Screven Memorial Baptist Church in Portsmouth, N.H., said, "I'm praying for a cavalry charge." His church, which was the first Southern Baptist church in New England, is praying that at least one person a week will be saved.

The BCNE is also seeking to have an impact on the 266 universities which enroll 700,000 students. At Yale University in New Haven, Conn., Dale Peterson coordinates the work of three student groups on campus, including a Baptist Student Union, Baptist Graduate Fellowship, and Baptist Divinity Fellowship.

Among the 10,000 students at Yale, only one-third are Protestant and even fewer are evangelical. "We are praying for another 'Great Awakening' to begin here and spread throughout New England," he said.

This summer marks the 300th anniversary of the Witch Trials in Salem, Mass. Church planter apprentice Greg Goss will be handing out tracts and witnessing during the witches' convention. "We're hoping to provide a biblical framework for interpreting the events of 1692," Goss said.

The tour also included trips to the Naval War College, which houses a Chaplains School, and the Luther Rice homesite, in addition to visits with convention and associational staff.

"The testimonies we heard were inspiring and great examples of our missions work in the United States," commented Larry L. Lewis, HMB president. "The yearning for revival and spiritual renewal was evident everywhere we went."



NASHUA, N. H. — HMB Board of Directors recently visited New England as part of their annual Directors' Awareness Tour. Mississippians who participated are with George Ellis (second from right, back row), pastor of Nashua Baptist Church. They are, left to right, Charlotte and Louie Odom; Joan and Liston Morris; and Laura and Greg Martin. Eighty percent of the people in New Hampshire are within an hour's drive of the church. (HMB photo by John Swain)

Training associational leaders is vital to growth

Some 450 gathered at Alta Woods Church in Jackson recently for the Associational Officers Interpretation meeting. Bill Causey, executive director of Mississippi Baptists, spoke on "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory." He emphasized that all of us have fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) and our only hope of this glory is "Christ in you." "The prodigal son was ashamed when he returned home; no ring, no robe, no shoes, yet the Father made him complete."

The morning and afternoon sessions were devoted to 14 simultaneous conferences to train, equip, and inspire associational leaders. In the Evangelism Department meeting, James Fancher encouraged the directors to become involved in training lay leaders to witness by having WIN schools. How to plan for revivals and the Total Church Life program were explained. Tom McEachern of the Home Mission Board assisted in the presentation.

Church Music, making plans for a great celebration of 50 years in organized church music in 1995, reviewed new programs and handbooks. Graham Smith, department director, led the orientation of the church musicians.

Marti Solomon and Louise Barbour of the WMU headquarters in Birmingham assisted Director Marjean Patterson and her associates in an overview of 1992-93, equipping them to serve for the coming year. Leadership styles and how to plan and promote your meetings were also part of the program.

Similar conferences were held by all departments in the Baptist Building said Gene Dobbs, "In an effort to train our associational leaders to minister more effectively." Dobbs serves as administrative assistant for ministry with the MBCB. Prayer Coordinators met for the first time in the Alta Woods meeting. "Prayer undergirds all of our work and is vital in every program and activity for success," declared Dobbs.

Lowrie accepts Texas church

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)—D. L. Lowrie, executive director/treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention for three and a half years, will become pastor of First Church in Lubbock, Texas, in September.

Lowrie, 57, will take the Lubbock pastorate after the Sept. 4 meeting of the Tennessee conven-

tion's executive board.

The chief executive is returning to the church he led as pastor from 1980-86. He was director of the State Missions Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas prior to joining the Tennessee convention executive committee.

B.J. Frew retires after 34 years as BSU director

By Betty Smith

"I'm just as happy and excited in the last year of my work as I was the first day I began," said Betty Jane (B. J.) Frew, BSU director at Hinds Community College for 34 years. "I've never considered or wanted any other career. My heart is with young people."

Frew is a native of Birmingham, Ala., a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, and Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. In 1958, she came as the first full-time Baptist Student Union director at Hinds, after serving as youth director at Calvary Church, Jackson, for two years. She was given an office in the administration building and permission to use the auditorium in the old music building for Monday night meetings. In those early years, Monday nights were reserved for religious meetings: mainly, BSU and the Wesley (Methodist) organization.

In a few years, Monday night meetings outgrew the auditorium; Raymond Church purchased a small house near the edge of the campus. As the enrollment of Hinds continued to grow, so did the involvement of students in BSU activities. When the Presbyterian Manse, just behind the small house, became available, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board purchased it for a BSU Center.

Soon the Manse was bursting at the seams. In 1978, a new, much larger Baptist Student Center was erected on the combined property where the small house and Manse had stood. Within five years, churches in Hinds, Rankin, and Warren Associations had contributed more than \$280,000 to pay for the building. The MBCB provided furnishing and equipment for the center.

BSU summer missions has always been an important part of the program at Hinds. B. J.'s first year at Hinds the summer missions goal was \$50. The students raised \$53. This year the goal was \$10,000, and they have raised more than \$12,000, the most any BSU in the state has given in one year. According to records in the Department of Student Work, MBCB, Hinds students, during B.J.'s 34 years there, have raised more than \$127,000. Forty-five students have served as BSU summer missionaries during those years. Many others have served as Home Mission Board summer missionaries, and on camp, assemblies, and church staffs.

Over the years, BSU activities have grown from the Monday night meetings to include Tuesday night Bible study, Wednesday prayer breakfast, Bible study for deaf students, intercessory prayer group, Campus Baptist Young Women, Campus Baptist Young Men, a choir, drama team, intramural sports, and aerobics. The BSU choir and drama team are frequent visitors in local churches. Student groups also assist with children's activities during revivals.

B. J.'s favorite part of her work



B.J. Frew

is "working one-on-one with students." She has a weekly conference with each member of the 23-member council.

The best advice B.J. ever got from her students came when she asked a group in her early years what they expected of her. They said, "We don't expect you to understand us; we don't understand ourselves. We do expect you to love us and to be available." She has sought to live up to those expectations.

Many times lights at the Student Center burned late into the night as students gathered to study for exams, fix a late-night snack, or just talk. The mother of a former student recently asked B.J., "Didn't you ever get tired and just want to run students out of the center?" Quickly, B.J. replied, "No. I always felt that when students stayed in the center, it was because they wanted to be there or needed to be there."

Through the years, B.J.'s advice to students has been: "God wants to give his children the best. Don't settle for second best." One of her greatest joys and rewards is "seeing students who have followed that advice and moved into places of Christian leadership in many areas of life, including church-related positions, medicine, and education."

At the end of May, B. J. will move to her home in Birmingham. She plans to become involved in Dawson Memorial Church, possibly take some courses at UAB, and be a "good neighbor."

Her sister is also moving to Birmingham, and B.J. said they plan to "play together." Her niece and two nephews have already extracted promises of prolonged visits from their "okay aunt" — one in New Hampshire, another in Oregon, and the other in Chicago.

A host of students, parents of students, co-workers, and friends who have been touched by her life and work wish for B.J. "God's best" as she enters a new era of her life.

Thursday, May 28, 1992



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thanks for the memories

It was a sunny day as the jet lifted off from the Madrid airport. From my seat at the window I looked down on an orange brown city that stopped abruptly at the edge of a wide plain. I could see then the grey greens of olive groves and the polka dots I now knew were closely pruned grape vines.

We flew over the snow streaked granite of the Pyrenees. Soon I looked down at a long white line where the Atlantic foamed against the shore. We landed, seven hours after take-off, in New York. Like the shortness of that day's trip have seemed my 39 years with the Baptist Record.

When I was young, I felt God might send me to work as a missionary in another country. Instead, he surprised me when he called me to religious journalism and sent me to Mississippi, the best place of all, to the best job in the world.

In 1953, at age 24, I first arrived in Jackson, in a plane not a jet. So cloudy was the afternoon that we circled above Hawkins Field more than an hour before we landed. In

the sunshine above the clouds that day, I did not dream I was about to land in a city where I might live for the rest of my life.

Not a day has this job ever been boring. I confess that some days it has been so frustrating that I thought of the fable about the man and the boy and the donkey, that no matter what they tried could not please everybody. But boring? No. Every day the mail brought new stories. Every day two or three nice things happened to blot out the one aggravating one.

Memories that we hoard, someone said, are our life savings. As this week I conclude my full-time employment with the Baptist Record and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, memories, like snapshots, keep coming back: memories I shall treasure always. Looking backward at those memories is like looking down from the sky in Spain at the richness of earth's landscape.

Kind and gracious Mississippi Baptists from Iuka to Woodville, from Southaven to Pascagoula, from Vicksburg to Meridian, and all the points between, have given

me enough happy memories to last forever.

I have worked in two Baptist Buildings, with five editors, and have gone from manual typewriters to Microsoft computers, and from hot metal type to desktop publishing.

Words are my tools; I have tried to use them well.

As I watch the 1,951st (that I have seen) issue of the Baptist Record go to press, I must express my gratitude for A. L. Goodrich and Chester Quarles, who hired me 39 years ago, and to the Lord, who sent me here. I must say thank you to the editor and all my co-laborers, present and past, who have shared with me the desire to make the Baptist Record the best paper in the world. I must say thank you to our printer, Cain Lithographers, who has served us long and well, and to my husband and family (happy birthday on Thursday, Aunt Maysey!) and friends who have given me behind-the-scenes support.

My last word of thanks is to the person for whom it has all been done. That is you, the reader.

18,000 expected for senior adult meeting

NASHVILLE (BP) — Developing healthy, loving relationships and making a difference in Christ, family, church, and community is the focus of a senior adult convention set for April 26-28, 1993, in Atlanta.

Registration for "Senior Adults Making A Difference" begins Sept. 1.

Leaders expect at least 18,000

to attend the second national Southern Baptist senior adult convention sponsored by the Sunday School Board's family ministry department. Fourteen thousand attended the first convention in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1987.

Television personality Art Linkletter will headline the speakers and entertainers at the event to be held in the Georgia Dome, according to Jay Johnston, senior adult consultant with the SSB's family ministry department and coordinator of the event.

A choir of 5,000 senior adults will be among the highlights of the three-day convention, Johnston added. "That would be the largest choir of older adults ever assembled."

Other keynoters include Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church of Atlanta; Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church of Jackson, Miss.; Mildred McWhorter, community specialist and SBC home missionary in Houston; and Brian Harbor, pastor of First Church of Richardson, Texas.

Alton Yarbrough, retired minister of education, dies

Alton B. Yarbrough, 74, a retired church minister of education, died of pneumonia Monday, May 18, at Grenada Lake Medical Center.

Services were held at First Church, Grenada, with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Yarbrough graduated Coushatta (La.) High School, Louisiana College, and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. He worked with Laural First Baptist Church in Petersburg, Va., Calvary Church in Jackson, and First Church of Grenada. He also worked with United Blood Services and was a consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Survivors include: wife, Gwendolyn; son, Ron Yarbrough of Jackson; daughters, Sandra Yarbrough of Jackson and Phyllis Yarbrough of Oxford; one brother, one step-brother, one sister, and a grandson.

A chosen instrument

Four times I have attended funerals in Clinton. The first was in the late 1940s when J.W. Provine died. President D.M. Nelson of Mississippi College spoke eloquently of Provine's contribution to Christian education. Harold Kitchens, co-worker in the Baptist Building, was a great loss to all of us. Several years ago Dan Hall's funeral was there. Dan was a friend and colleague and is still missed throughout the state.

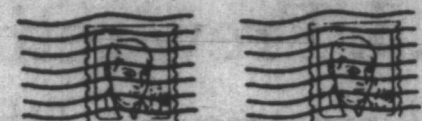
Recently I attended the funeral for Howard E. Spell. Across the world more than 7,000 graduates will recall his name being on their MC diplomas. It seems he had been a permanent fixture in Clinton for most of his 89 years. His Sunday School class was well represented. Hartwell McPhail said after Spell was feeble and took a long time to get from his car to the church, the class arranged for him to have a close parking place. Spell refused it, saying he would leave home 30 minutes earlier. "I'll be on time," he said. He called the class "my boys" and his boys paid tribute to a "great teacher."

President Lewis Nobles of Mississippi College spoke of "the man of God" declaring that Christian education never had a finer advocate. Pastor Bill Baker described Spell as being "a chosen instrument" who represented the 100-fold return. Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary had the benediction. Spell had served the seminary for 23 years as a trustee.

Martha Bacon, Clinton, sang, "Precious Lord, Take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the Light...." And history moved on. The memories linger. — GH



Letters to the editor



Many, but not much

Editor:

"Day of intolerance"... "Baptist unity lost"... were two of the titles found in the "Letters to the editor" section of the April 30 edition of the Baptist Record. I feel quite sure that the "Day of intolerance" letter has been met with many raised eyebrows — and well it should have. However, the "Baptist unity lost" is equally questionable. (One is made to wonder if anyone has consulted a dictionary lately to become familiar with just what the term unity means. The definition that is so often exhorted would seem to find a much better home as a description of the Unitarian/Universalist doctrine. Their one doctrine that is to be treasured and protected above all others is the complete freedom of religious thought.)

But why? Quite possibly it can be traced to 1954. A slogan was introduced then that said, "A million more in '54." The motivation to spread the gospel was a good and noble one. However, the means and methods that have been used since that day are in many cases questionable at best. It must at least be considered that in our zeal to win the world we have become like the world. (How thankful I was to read in our editor's column a very crucial statement: "I had rather spend my energy trying to help the SBC regain integrity than seek alliance with a new organization, which under the trumpet of freedom, is including more tolerance for diversity (this is the Unitarian/Universalist doctrine) than warranted by Scripture of polity.")

What do we do? First of all we stop being overly fretful of drops in Sunday School attendance and lack of baptisms. Secondly, we stop being overly proud of increases in Sunday School attendance or baptisms. Perhaps we can then become acquainted with the truth of genuine conversion. It is God that gives the increase. In addition, — and this is probably the most important — pastors, teachers, and other Christian workers could be freed to let their anxieties rest in the rightly dividing the Word of truth instead of chasing the latest human ingenuity to do the sovereign work of God. To accept anything less is to continue an exercise in futility... becoming many but not much.

David Watson, minister
of music/youth
Mt. Zion Church
Columbus

BSU seeks contacts

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union at the United States Air Force Academy would like to contact the men and women coming to the Academy June 28 and 29 to begin training. For those arriving June 28, we will meet them at the airport, provide free lodging, meals, and transporta-

tion, and take them to the Academy at the appointed time.

The Air Force Academy Baptist Student Union is a widely recognized organization and is here for the purpose of contributing to cadets' spiritual growth. We seek to minister to cadets through involvement in Bible study, discipleship training, evangelism training, local church participation, worship, fellowship, and mission endeavors. We invite all new incoming cadets to join with us.

Please contact us at 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919, (719) 599-9094. Also, for anyone attending West Point or the Naval Academy, similar ministries are provided. At West Point contact: Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520, (914) 534-7954. At the Naval Academy contact: Dick Bumpass, 210 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401, (301) 263.0963.

Dwain Gregory, director
Baptist student ministries
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Lost first love?

Editor:

As the early Christians had problems about circumcision, now we Baptists are as good as demanding that a belief in the inerrancy of the Bible is a condition of full fellowship, or according to some, salvation itself.

In reading the same passage of Scripture from a half-dozen versions or translations of the Bible, I find a word or phrase or paragraph that can be interpreted in different ways, often changing the meaning entirely. Will the inerrantists eventually select a version of the Word of God that is acceptable, and rule all others as in error?

The witness of the SBC as a Christian body is rapidly deteriorating. We are playing into the hands of those who would destroy us and all vestiges of Christianity in our nation.

The Bible speaks of the priesthood of the believer. If this is so, why must there be dissension among our leaders about what we as individual Christians should believe?

As the Bible was written by mortal men who were inspired by God, why are we as also mortal men being coerced into believing that the Bible is infallible, much as our Catholic friends believe about their pope?

I am distressed by the lack of compassion of a recent letter writer who referred to some of our SBC leaders as ungodly and liberals. How can this be? These men would never have been in those positions of responsibility had they been "ungodly and liberal." Only those religionists who deny the virgin birth, the miracles, and the resurrection of our Lord deserve those epithets. Have we as Southern Baptists, as Christ told the church at Ephesus, lost our first love?

J. B. Morgan

Long Beach

Alarmed at trend

Editor:

I am alarmed at the trend that the editor of the Baptist Record has taken toward promoting the Fellowship that seems to be shaping up for a new denomination. I have been preaching for 53 years and have observed that the group that is griping about the conservatives that has rooted out that bunch that has been in control as long as I can remember.

In the Record of May 7 you have three major articles promoting the Fellowship even attempting to take away from the SBC; Fellowship, Ruschlikon, and pamphlets attempting to proselyte Southern Baptists to this new movement.

Are you Southern Baptist or are you going with the Fellowship? Please get on the bandwagon or resign and don't take the Baptist Record with this Fellowship. Either promote Southern Baptists or go with the disgruntled bunch that is crying because they can't run things like they did before 1979.

Paul Z. Ball
Leakesville

Editor's note: Sorry, the Baptist Record is not a promotional paper for the SBC nor the Fellowship. When you have 6,000 Baptists meeting — representing perhaps 40% of the SBC — it is news. The editor is Southern Baptist and intends to remain so.

Praying for editor

Editor:

This morning in my prayer time, I prayed for you and your family. I am trusting God to bless you "according to his riches in glory."

I appreciate you and your work. As I read the letters to the editor, I realize how difficult it must be to be in your position, especially in the days in which we live. I feel we are very fortunate to have you as editor of the Baptist Record.

Nelson Crozier pastor
First Church, Sharon
Laurel

Editor's note: Many thanks.

"Live for God"

Editor:

Concerning the "Good and Evil" letter in the Baptist Record May 7, 1992:

From the beginning, the God of Abraham condemned homosexuals or sodomites. All through the Bible homosexuality was condemned (Rom. 1:23-29). The preacher in North Carolina should be kicked out of the Convention and his license to preach should be revoked. If we do not go back to live for the God of Abraham we are gone, and I think of all our forefathers went through for us to have what we have today.

What happened in Los Angeles could have been stopped; it started a long time ago. Our missionaries in the inner cities need to teach the kids to grow gardens. God will take care of you if you help to take care of yourself. Read Proverbs 6. In Cincinnati some ladies have started this and they feed most of the inner city with fresh vegetables. I hope our Baptists will wake up before it is too late.

Sam Deaton
Ellisville

Stop embarrassment

Editor:

I don't anticipate my church or myself leaving the convention, but I am in fear that the convention is leaving us.

We are now approaching another Southern Baptist Convention in June. We have three outstanding nominees of the office of president. These men face a tenure in office of difficult decisions that will make or break the convention. With God's help, one of these men must make those decisions. They certainly need your prayers and support unlike any other time in the convention's history.

Let us be about our father's business. Stop castigating other organizations such as the case reported in Associated Press of the convention making an official statement on freemasonry. Should we not adhere to "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" (Matt. 7:3). Masonry needs no defense but to those who are uninformed. The Masonic bodies open and close their meetings with an opened Bible and their teachings are taken from that book. In the Clarion-Ledger dated March 21 involving Hank Williams Jr. and a team of Budweiser representatives who used the Baptist Sunday School Board's studio and satellite uplink equipment in Nashville, Tenn. They arranged a video conference call with reporters nationwide to promote Williams' Budweiser rockin' country concert tour. The board president, Jimmy Draper, answered inquiries with, "We made a mistake."

Stop the embarrassment to the real ambassadors for Christ. We must continue supporting the faithful for "by their works we shall know them." All leaders should know that they are accountable to God and the convention. Pray God that it is not too late!

Homer C. King
Natchez

"Uphold autonomy"

Editor:

It grieves me deeply to see that the Executive Committee of the North Carolina convention voted against discontinuing fellowship and reception of funds from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and Binkley Memorial Baptist

Church in their state. The reason for the 9-8 vote against taking such action was the autonomy of the local church. Why, sir, did they disregard the autonomy of several hundred other local churches in their convention with such a vote?

I certainly uphold the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of the believer. However, I do not believe that this doctrine should be used as a license to heresy. In the report of committee on Baptist Faith and Message the precedes The Baptist Faith and Message statement of faith, the committee reports:

"Baptists emphasize the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion, and the priesthood of the believer. However, this emphasis should not be interpreted to mean that there is an absence of certain definite doctrines that Baptists believe, cherish, and with which they have been and are now closely identified."

Knowing this, one wonders if the same narrow thinking will prevail at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis this summer. If so, whether one can in good conscience remain in an organization that so believes.

Bill Ferrand, pastor
Springdale Church
West

Dead of malnutrition

Editor:

On May 9, I attended the final "homecoming" at Clarke College, Newton. What I experienced there was reminiscent of many funerals I have attended. I guess one could say that the "homecoming" activities amounted to "memorial services" for our alma mater. Like most funerals there was the expression of emotions: hurt, disbelief, fond memories — shared by all "her children" who attended.

For the past 10-12 years we alumni have watched her suffer and finally succumb. Oh, she had not been ill, she was just hungry! We have tried on many occasions to alert the leaders of our convention that she would starve to death if life-support techniques were not implemented in the form of restored funding as well as the undoing of the merger that we had been led to believe was legal and upright. No one was willing to accept authority to make and/or implement any change that would have insured her survival.

Clarke College has died of malnutrition administered at the hand of those who limited her feeding, thereby draining her very life away.

At every funeral, I've attended there has been talk of the hope we have in Christ of a promised resurrection... when the truth is finally told, there might just be a resurrection for Clarke as well.

Benny Still, pastor
Poplar Springs Church
Mendenhall

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 28 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Teacher Enlistment

by Randy Tompkins, Consultant
Sunday School Department, MBCB

The most common comment given by Mississippi pastors is "I cannot find enough workers for my Sunday School!" While this is a common problem, it is not insurmountable. There are at least three things a church can do to overcome this problem.

First, the committee, or person, responsible for worker enlistment should not overlook any church member. In most churches, the Nominating Committee will be responsible for worker enlistment. As this committee becomes familiar with names on the church roll, a process of "selective" removal takes place. In this process the committee makes the determination that the individual would not serve if asked. Therefore, the individual is selectively dropped from consideration. Many people have been lost to service in God's kingdom because it was perceived they would say "no". No committee, or individual, should make this assumption. Each person should be given the opportunity for a personal response.

Second, ask individuals. Some committees use the mass enlistment method of enlistment. When this method is used, an entire Adult Sunday School class is vocally polled to see who might volunteer. Very seldom will this obtain positive results.

It is much better if individuals are privately approached and five things be presented: a) Why is it important for us to have Sunday School; b) Why is it important for this individual to consider working in Sunday School; c) What is this individual being asked to do; d) What will be some potential results if this individual accepts the position; and e) When is the individual to give a response. It is important that the individual be given a few days to seek God's leadership through prayer and to visit with family members.

The third thing a church can do to enlist Sunday School workers is to evaluate the Sunday School organization. Many churches enlist a substitute Sunday School worker for every Sunday School worker enlisted. While this sounds like a good idea, it does present some problems. The main problem is the removal of many people from service as active Sunday School leaders. Most substitute workers are never called on to serve during the Sunday School year. In many cases a person who has been elected as a substitute will not accept another position. Many potential Sunday School workers might become available if the church were to eliminate the position of substitute Sunday School worker. HT

Ministry Blitz

July 12-17, 1992

Where:

LEE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Tupelo
Salttillo
Baldwyn

Guntown
Sherman
Belden

Shannon
Nettleton
Verona

Plantersville

Type of Ministry:

BACKYARD BIBLE CLUBS

In trailer parks, housing projects and apartment complexes

SUPPORT MINISTRIES

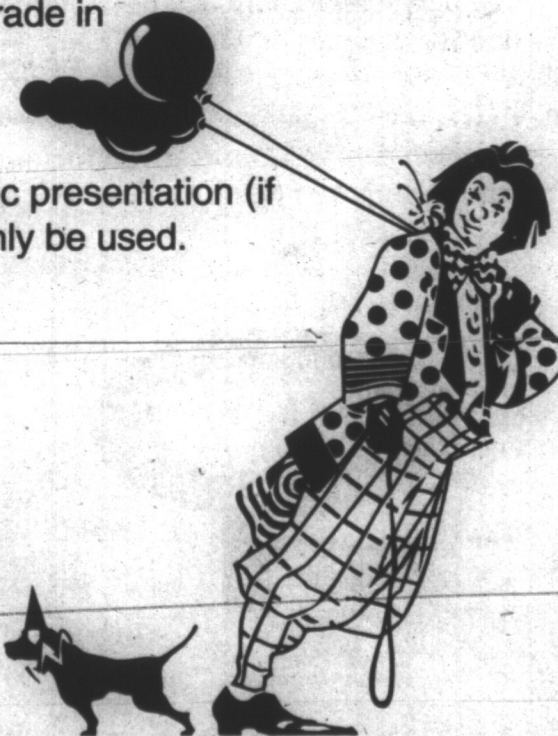
Survey, nursing homes, abused children's shelter, etc.

Innovators Will Need:

1. To purchase and prepare Backyard Bible Club materials and supplementary materials and plan activities work two hours daily for four days with preschoolers or children 1st through 6th grade in Backyard Bible Club.
2. To plan for your expenses— meals, lodging, and travel expenses.
3. To prepare to share your testimony or music presentation (if you wish). Puppets and clowns can certainly be used.

Contact:

J. C. Prather
P.O. Box 133
Tupelo, MS 38802
(o) 601-842-8164 (h) 601-566-2867



Barbara Chambley: CHAMPION

by Debbie Baird Buie

To Barbara Chambley's way of thinking the word "cooperation" means a lot to the success of any effort. So when Pastor Frank Bishop encouraged her to become North Winona Baptist's Cooperative Program champion, she was eager to accept the task.

"My pennies and nickels alone can't do much, but in cooperation with that of others we will further the work of the Kingdom," the state employed executive secretary believes. "It takes cooperation for anything to work. I like the work our Cooperative Program does in so many various ways. There are good reasons for giving that are worthy of our support."

Chambley points to all the changes in the world and all the new doors that have been opened to the gospel. At the same time she is reminded that a dollar doesn't buy as much today as it once did. "We must increase our giving to continue to support missions and missionaries," she said.

At North Winona Chambley is leading her fellow church members in a new awareness of the Cooperative Program. On April 12, the church had an emphasis on stewardship and the Cooperative Program, and as chairman of the church's missions committee she has many opportunities to share information with others and promote Cooperative Program giving.

"On Wednesday nights we pray for the Mississippi Missionary of the Month, using the booklet put out by the Stewardship office," she said. "The more people know about (how the Cooperative Program works), the more apt they are to support it."

As the Cooperative Program reaches out into the newly opened avenues of witness, Chambley is reminded of Exodus 22:21. "As Israel was commanded to show sympathy to strangers, we are also commanded. The Cooperative Program can reach beyond our church in a way we cannot alone," she said. **HT**



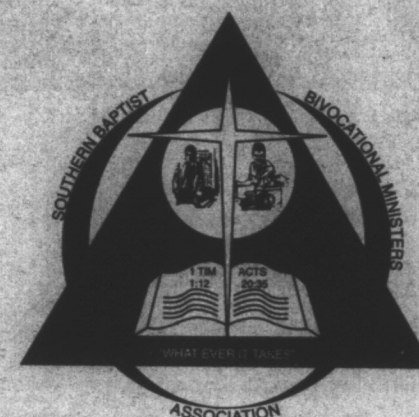
A FELLOWSHIP MEETING FOR ALL BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING ASSOCIATIONS

**Pearl River
George**

**Gulf Coast
Jackson**

Greene

will be held on **June 26, 1992**
at Gulfport Heights Baptist Church in
Gulfport
6:30 - 8:45 p.m.



The host church and Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department will cover the expenses of the meal. All bivocational ministers (including those not presently serving a church) and their wives are invited to attend to enjoy the fellowship and receive encouragement in bivocational ministry.

For more information contact Matt Buckles, consultant for bivo ministry, at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800.

Twins Complete 9th Year in Bible Drills



Dionne Povermomo



Gina Povermomo

Gina and Dionne are the identical twin daughters of Mrs. Shirley Poveromo, Laurel, Mississippi. They are members of First Baptist Church and are active in the activities and ministry of the Youth Group and Youth Choir.

They developed their Bible skills early on and for a number of years, because of their commitment, were the only two participants in youth drills representing First Baptist Church. In April 1992, they received their **9 year plaque**, trophy and seal for superior performance.

Gina and Dionne are seniors at R. H. Watkins High School, Laurel, Ms., ranking in the top five (5) academically. They have received awards for outstanding leadership in the choral and drama departments. They are both members of the traveling speech team and have received numerous awards in speech competitions. Gina was a finalist attending Nationals in Chicago. She is a member of the

performing Showstopper group and will be performing in the Magic Kingdom of Disneyworld in May. Gina was recently named fourth Alternate in the R.H. Watkins "Most Beautiful" pageant held in April. Gina and Dionne are four year members of the National Honor Society and hold degrees of distinction in the National Forensics League.

Both girls plan to attend Baylor University in Waco, Tex., this fall. Gina plans to pursue a career in Communications, while Dionne is undecided at this time. Even though they are much alike and have many of the same interests, they are individual and act independently.

They view their years of participation in Bible Drills as a tool for their Christian growth and their commitment to Christian principles which will be a source of strength and priorities during their college years. **HT**

State Youth Speakers Tournament Winner

Billy Graham, William Carey, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong—all these well-known servants of the Lord had to seek and search to find God's will for their lives. What about me? As a senior in high school, I am nearing a time when I will be making many important decisions that will affect the rest of my life. I must decide in what direction to go with a career; where I will continue my education; the question of marriage; and, encompassing all three of these, how I can effectively serve God. I know He has a purpose for my life; and, as Elmer Towns, a noted Christian education specialist, reminds me, "A person cannot be a successful Christian if he misses out on God's plan for his life."

Jesus' entire life was dedicated completely to doing His Father's will. He once prayed, in Luke 22:42, "Not my will...but your will be done." Likewise, God wants me to find out His will for my life and do it. However, I must look for His will before it will be revealed to me. I must become like a child who obeys and trusts his parents, sometimes not knowing why, and follow my Heavenly Father.

Nearing graduation, I have many questions pertaining to my career. I have learned through various activities that I enjoy working with people of all ages. For example, I teach piano to elementary age children, which, besides teaching me patience, has also taught me how to communicate with the younger generation. Also, I have visited and worked in

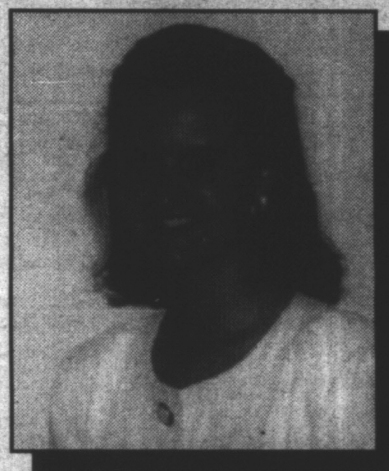
our local nursing home. Seeing how I can lift the spirits of someone just by a smile or a simple "hello" is a spirit-lifter for me as well. I can see myself happy in a vocation that includes making contributions to people, which is one reason why occupational therapy is so appealing to me. The idea that I might be able to help re-teach someone the very basic skills of life, such as talking or picking up a pencil, fascinates me. As I seek God's guidance further, perhaps I will find this career to fit into my life's plans. I want to

with my values. Another factor attracting me to it is knowing how much my father and two older siblings enjoyed it.

Another major decision that I may or may not face is marriage. Although that is not worrying me too much right now, it is definitely something that I need to think about. Scott Kirby, a noted Christian youth writer, points out a danger. He says: "It is very easy to mistake our own wishes for God's will. We sometimes mistake our inward desires for

focus on developing my own Godly character will greatly influence the direction of my choice of a lifemate.

In addition to searching for God's will regarding my career, my choice of a college, and possibly marriage, I feel that I also want to explore how I can serve the Lord through my life. Finding God's will regarding career and marriage will certainly complement my attempts to discover how I can serve God with my talents and abilities. Like finding other things in God's will, this is something for which I must continue to search. No matter how many times my pastor might sign me up to read scripture in church, my place of service will not just be assigned to me until I seriously look for it. And it may not necessarily be that of pastor, music director, or some other paid staff position. I may have certain qualities that make me important as a church member—maybe being able to see the needs of other people, coming to the rescue when a particular person in the nursing home calls and asks for company, or just encouraging other church members.



Patricia Nowell, Mt. Horeb Baptist Church in Collins, was the Youth Speaker winner in the State Youth Speakers Tournament held at Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, May 2, 1992.

The Speakers Tournament is sponsored each year by the Discipleship Training Department for youth in high school.

As a state winner, Patricia will be Mississippi's representative at Ridgecrest in July during the Discipleship Training Conference as a guest of the Mississippi Discipleship Training Department.

stay open to any options that God may be trying to reveal to me.

In thinking about preparing myself for a particular career, my choice of a college becomes very important. Mississippi College appeals to me because its graduates enjoy a high acceptance rate into the University Medical School, which is where I would like to go to pursue my preparation for a career in occupational therapy. But that is only a bonus. I am choosing Mississippi College because I believe it is a school that will not conflict

the spirit's leading."

I feel that I must look for someone with the same values and priorities in life that I have. The Bible says in II Corinthians 6:14: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." This instructs Christians not to be romantically involved with non-Christians, much less consider marrying one.

I feel that more emphasis should be put on being the right person rather than finding the right person. Continuing to

Although it may be getting harder to stay in God's will because of various reasons, such as peer pressure or selfish desires; it is not impossible to find God's will and live it. By searching and trying, I will not only find His plan for my life but also many other joys as well. Ann Landers, whose column is read by thousands of young people, states a simple but true fact. She says: "The answer to every problem can be found between the covers of the Bible." Constantly reminding myself that I am on God's timetable and not on my own, I continue to ask, "Lord, please show me..." **HT**

ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

By Leroy Brewer, Jr.

New Zion Baptist Church, Crystal Springs

What a wonderful blessing it was to meet and get to know the people of Zimbabwe. How the Lord blesses when we allow Him to use us and we are willing to go anywhere He leads. I'm very grateful to New Zion Baptist Church and the Mantee Baptist Church for providing the funds for me to go.

The people of Zimbabwe are poor but generous with what they have, which is little. There is a desire and a hunger for God's Word. A few areas are churching, but most have a great need for churches to be planted because there are none. There is a great need for pastors because there are not enough and few of them are trained.

There is a great need for the Southern Baptists of Mississippi to take advantage of this partnership and go before the opportunity is gone.

From news reports, the drought and famine are growing worse, but some of you can bring the living water and the milk of the Word to a people who are crying for the gospel.

I had some great experiences in some of their homes, not houses like you and I have. I ate different foods like Sadsa (similar to grits but finer ground and dryer) and mealy meal.

Meeting with and spending time with our missionaries was truly a blessing as I saw their work and the fruits of their labor. I came away with a much greater appreciation for our missionaries and for the mission field.

One young man I visited with asked Christ into his heart. As I spoke through an interpreter about Christ dying for his sins, tears ran down his face. Joy unspeakable was in my heart as he prayed to receive Jesus as His Lord and Savior.

Pray for the people of Zimbabwe for the famine and drought that it would be broken and God would send both showers to water crops and quench the parched earth, but that the showers of the Gospel might rain down all over the country through our missionaries and those going as volunteers through the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership. **HT**

This is one of a series of testimonials from people who have traveled to Zimbabwe to participate in the Partnership project. Mississippi Baptists have begun with that African country. Other testimonials are scheduled to follow.

MISSISSIPPI PRAYERGRAM

PARTICIPATE in the fifth day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, a 24-hour period from 6 p.m., Friday, June 5 to 6 p.m., Saturday, June 6 (just before Pentecost Sunday). Pray alone, as families, or in church groups—in prayer chains, prayer vigils or all-night prayer meetings. Remember especially the people groups and for the Fulani people of West Africa, who number some 15 million. Most of them have yet to hear about Jesus.

PRAY FOR THE STUDENT MINISTRY in Niteroi, Brazil. Tom and Bonnie Hearon ask for prayer support as they train national pastors to begin local student ministries.

PRAY that the JESUS FILM will be translated into the Kurdish dialect. Pray that God will raise enough Kurdish-speaking believers to finish the translation and provide voices for the film.

Pray for Walter Doyle, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Calumet City, IL. Plans are being made for a third airport in the Greater Chicago area, and it will take the church property. Pray that the Lord will intervene. This is the only Southern Baptist ministry in the entire area.

PRAY for Elmer Mundy, retired from full-time ministry, but serving as church growth pastor of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Rice Lake, Wisconsin. PRAY for a volunteer couple to move to the church field to help him with evangelism and other aspects of the ministry.

PRAY for church planting in the United States. According to Floyd Tidsworth, Director of the New Church Extension Division. There are 459 counties in the United States that have no Southern Baptist church or mission. Of these, 425 urgently need at least one new church. Pray that congregations will be planted so that 4 million unchurched people living in these counties can be reached for Christ.

THANK GOD for Mississippi students who will be serving in summer missions at home and overseas. They need daily prayer that they will be able to adjust to their place of service and that they will give and receive blessings.

KEEP ON REMEMBERING Hiram and Shirley Powell, on-the-field coordinators of the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership. Pray that Shirley will have no further health problems and that they will get their work permit. Pray for Mississippi volunteers in Zimbabwe.

PRAY for Mississippi messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, that they may go in the spirit of prayer that God will work mightily in the convention for spiritual awakening and Great Commission outreach.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYER LINE
969-PRAY



Tee Anyone?

THIRD ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE MINISTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Co-Sponsored by
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
July 30-31, 1992

WHO?

All ordained ministers are invited. Including Pastors, DOM's, Youth, Music and BSU Directors

WHAT?

Two man scramble. Teams assigned by handicap. 18 holes Monday used to flight teams. 18 holes Tuesday for Championship. Limited to first 92.

HOW MUCH?

\$50 per person. (Includes green fees and cart for two days, lunches and refreshments.)

FOR INFORMATION CALL: Mississippi College (601) 925-3263

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 30

11:00 a.m.Registration, team and cart assignment in B.C. Rogers Student Center, MC campus
11:30 a.m.Lunch at Mississippi College
1:30 p.m.Tee off at Live Oaks
5:00 p.m.Refreshments at Live Oaks

FRIDAY, JULY 31

8:00 a.m.Flight announcements and cart assignments at Live Oaks
8:30 a.m.Tee Off
12:00 noonLunch, prizes and presentations.
Prizes for first, second and third in each flight.
Prizes for longest drive, longest putt, closest to pin and worst shot of the tournament (as nominated by playing partners).

M · I · S · S · I · S · S · I · P · P · I SUPER SUMMER

WANTED:

- Youth with leadership abilities
- Youth Leaders with exceptional youth leadership



CONTACT:

Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or telephone 968-3800

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
June 1

JULY 20-24

WILIAM CAREY COLLEGE
\$130.00

HOUSE OF

Mississippi Brotherhood relief workers go to Moscow

By Tim Nicholas

Don Tew, pastor of Shuqualak Church, on a recent two-week trip to Moscow in Russia, received daily gifts from his wife and two children. Each day, he opened a note from each which they had written before he left.

A few days into the trip, he told the other four Mississippians on the trip that his 11-year-old daughter Ava had written, "Please bring me a picture of Russia."

That was a tall order, not just because of the enormous size of Russia, but because two weeks in that enigmatic country could only give a tiny portion of an accurate picture.

Tew had traveled there along with Jerry Bishop, pastor of First Church, Durant; Lee Castle, pastor of First Church, Macon; Jim Didlake, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood Department consultant; and Tim Nicholas, director of communication for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Purpose of the trip, in a nutshell, was to sack flour. The group was a part of Operation Brotherhood, a campaign undertaken by the Brotherhood Commission on request of the Baptist World Alliance, to participate in a project to help feed needy people in what was the Soviet Union. Other donations are going to other parts of the Commonwealth of Independent States, but help was needed in distributing U.S.D.A. commodity foodstuffs in Moscow.

The idea was to work alongside Russian Baptists in distributing the food, to offer a witness for Christ, and to let the Russian Baptists know that they are loved and prayed for.

Mississippi worked through its Brotherhood Department's Disaster Relief Task Force to recruit its team. Each team of five persons works for two weeks, overlapping

a week with other teams. Mississippi will field its second team to Moscow in July.

The plan calls for the volunteers to work 10 days in a warehouse repackaging the 110-lb. sacks of flour, rice, and lentils into one and two-lb. sacks for distribution to families. The amount to be distributed by the Baptists was estimated to be more than 500 tons.

The teams have worked somewhat less than 10 days each because of a lack of food to repackage. Brother's Brother, the organization which secured the U.S.D.A. foods, consigned it all to the Russian Orthodox Church, with the understanding that 10% of it would go to the Baptists for distribution. The Baptists from America, working alongside Russian Baptist volunteers, ran out of food several times, having to wait for release of more from the Orthodox Church's warehouse.

The food, when added to parcels of powdered milk and cooking oil, was to be distributed through the Moscow Baptist Church, which has a number of outreach points throughout the nine-million population city.

The only distribution done by the end of the sixth week when the Mississippians returned home, was to a psychiatric hospital to which Moscow Baptist Church has had a compassionate ministry going for more than four years, since before such was legal. Michael Zhidkov, a minister with the church, wanted some of the food to go there. When a follow-up was made by CARE workers, a hospital staffer said that of the 165 110-lb. sacks each of rice and of flour given to the hospital, all but five sacks each were given to the staff.

The assistant administrator said that the patients were eating better than the staff, who are making low wages. For instance, a state-

employed doctor makes about 1,000 rubles a month, nurses, about 750, and other staff less. A U.S. dollar brings about 100 rubles.

To put it in perspective, a trip to McDonald's in Moscow costs about 125 rubles for a Big Mac, fries, and large Coke. That's only a little over a dollar, if you have dollars. But it could be more than 10% of a person's monthly wages in Russia.

Also, a pensioner gets only about 5-600 rubles a month. And that amount is being stretched thinner and thinner daily. A pint of milk in the hotel where the Americans stayed cost five rubles. Only six months ago it cost about 20 kopecks. It takes 100 kopecks to make a ruble. That's a 2,500% rise.

People are standing in lines for long periods of time just for a loaf of bread. Southern Baptist Missionary George Lozuk, assigned in Moscow with his wife Veda Rae, and with Mel and Nancy Skinner, says that many people are making do on much less. Breakfast for many is tea and bread, he said.

Lozuk asked his apartment superintendent to list for him those in great need in the building. The manager said of 160 apartments, 80 families are "just getting by."

So, will a few pounds of flour, rice, beans, and powdered milk make a difference? Lozuk believes so. He says it will stretch a pensioner's monthly supply. And it is an opportunity to witness for Christ.

Baptists and Orthodox are not the only groups distributing commodity foods. A Jewish group, Adventists, World Vision, CARE, and Catholics are participating. The Salvation Army, according to Denny Quinn, a Missouri electrician who, with his wife Jenny, are (See MOSCOW on page 8)



Lee Castle, pastor of First Church, Macon, holds a 110-lb. sack of lentils on his shoulders, with loading help from George Middlebrook of Nacogdoches, Tex. The volunteers — five Mississippians, three Texans, coordinator Denny Quinn, and seven Russians — moved nearly 23 tons of these beans down two narrow flights of stairs onto a truck.



Above left, Jim Didlake of the Brotherhood Department measures rice with Mike Sloane of Mallie, Ky. At right, Don Tew, pastor of Shuqualak Church, twists a flour sack to be given to the needy.



Vera Samoilova and Zina Klimkina (spelling approximate) wear some of the flour they helped repack in the warehouse in Moscow. These members of Moscow Baptist Church worked every day that the Americans were there. Even the bus driver, Vladimir, packed rice.



Pictured are Mississippians and the volunteer coordinators of the Moscow project. From left they are: Don Tew, pastor of Shuqualak Church; Jim Didlake, Brotherhood Department consultant; Jenny Quinn of Mis-

souri; Jerry Bishop, pastor of First Church, Durant; Lee Castle, pastor of First Church, Macon; and Denny Quinn. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

Hewett, Hastey assess future for moderates

By Larry Chesser

VIENNA, Va. (ABP) — What do the 1990s hold for moderate Baptists who find themselves out of step in the fundamentalist-led Southern Baptist Convention?

To a large degree, answers to that question appear closely linked to the future of two moderate Baptist organizations formed after fundamentalists gained control of the SBC — the older, smaller Alliance of Baptists centered in the mid-Atlantic region and the younger, larger, more geographically diverse Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Will the Alliance and Fellowship merge, and if not, what will be their relationship? Will the year-old Fellowship become a new convention for Baptists ready to leave the SBC?

While it may take the rest of this decade or longer to learn full

answers to those questions, Alliance and Fellowship leaders say the answers will come from local church decisions.

John Hewett, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C., and outgoing moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Stan Hastey, executive director of the Alliance of Baptists, recently told the Virginia chapter of the Alliance that the future is determined at the local church level in Baptist life.

"We could call a so-called constitutional convention and say, 'Come and we're going to form a new convention,' and the power of that would be absolutely nothing unless local congregations voted to do it," Hewett said. "When local congregations demand it, it will happen, and I'm convinced that it ought not to happen until then if

we're going to be authentically Baptist." Discussions between Alliance and CBF representatives about the relationship between the groups are ongoing, with the next round of meetings scheduled Sept. 9 in Atlanta.

"Whatever arrangement we work out structurally, it is going to be a friendly relationship that we enjoy with the Fellowship," Hastey told Virginia Alliance members.

He predicted that the five-year-old Alliance "is not going to get very much bigger than we are right now," but said he had concluded in recent weeks "that the Alliance does and will have a continuing role to play as a self-standing organization and movement."

Both Hastey and Hewett expressed agreement with predictions by sociologist Nancy Ammerman and Bill Leonard that any division within the

SBC would resemble fragmentation more than schism.

"The fragmentation of the Southern Baptist Convention is under way, but it will be neither as large, nor as broad nor as deep as many of us might have thought at various points along the way," Hastey said.

"I think we are going to be small," Hewett said, calling attention to the crowd sizes at the May 16-17 Virginia Alliance gathering and also at the recent CBF meeting in Fort Worth, which attracted 4,500 registrants compared with 6,000 a year earlier in Atlanta.

"The fact is that most of the people who are wedded to the Southern Baptist Convention are going to stay right there," Hewett said, "and if you think differently, I congratulate you on your optimism. I think we're going to be

small. I think the pace of this movement of Baptists in the '90s is going to be slow."

He said the SBC fundamentalists helped "us admit that we were caught up in something that was bland and tasteless and occasionally wicked.... That mighty wind blew down our self-righteousness which afflicted and still afflicts a people who think of themselves as 'God's Last and Only Hope.'"

He predicted that some Southern Baptists soon "will wake up and discover themselves mired in the mud of a rigid totalitarian structure deemed totally irrelevant by much of the church and most of the world. And the rest will never notice because the rest just don't notice. They live their lives building more stately mansions while they discover new ways to alliterate."

Chesser is staff writer, BJCPA.

Magnificent ministry

By Don Stanfill

Acts 4:37

There was a story in the *Journal of National Education Association* entitled "Cipher in the Snow," about a young boy found dead in the snow. A teacher made the following statements about this boy, named Cliff: "He never talked, never smiled, never participated in any activities. He never played on any team, never joined any club, never held any office, never did one happy, noisy, kid thing. Few students knew him well enough to attend his funeral. I attended the funeral with a few from his junior class. During the service I was thinking: the real tragedy of Cliff was not that he died. The real tragedy of Cliff was that he never lived."

Acts 4:37 tells of a man with a magnificent ministry: Barnabas, the "son of encouragement." His ministry was not the most visible, or vocal, but without a doubt was one of the most beneficial.

What would have happened to the young convert Paul, had there not been a Barnabas who saw one that needed his ministry of encouragement? Caring people always make a difference in the lives of others.

The church at Antioch would have remained narrow and exclusive in fellowship had not Barnabas stood with those Greek-speaking converts. His heart was so filled with the love of God that he felt compelled to reach out to these rejected ones. He drew a circle and took them in.

There was a needed ministry to the fallen missionary John Mark. While others washed their hands of him, Barnabas gave a hand to him. Mark needed the ministry of encouragement; it was Barnabas who saw the need and met it. This ministry of Barnabas' proved to be invaluable in helping Mark to forget his failure, and later to author one of our New Testament books.

The credentials for this ministry of encouragement are eyes that see good in the worst of us, a hand that extends to the most undeserving, and a heart that longs to see the miracle of God's transforming grace at work in lives.

Those who have learned to invest in others know where the greatest of all dividends can be found, and where the most magnificent of ministries takes place. Any place becomes a holy place when Christian love reaches to deliver the discouraged. We are all called to this magnificent ministry.

Stanfill is director of missions, Lafayette/Marshall Associations.



Stanfill

FMB: Cuban Baptists see rapid growth

By Mary E. Speidel

HAVANA, Cuba (BP) — "We don't have but we have. We can't but we can."

That's how some Cuban Baptists describe Christian life in today's Cuba, according to a former Southern Baptist missionary there.

"Cuban Baptists say that although life is difficult, although all they need (materially) is not available, God is providing," said Betty Law, a former missionary to Cuba under appointment by the Home Mission Board. Law, now vice president for the Americas at the Foreign Mission Board, also was a foreign missionary in Spain.

When Castro came to power, the

western convention claimed some 84 churches, 176 mission congregations and 8,561 members. The convention had "a strong, dynamic work," Law said, with excellent programs in Sunday School, church music, youth and student work, and missions education. The convention also sponsored a seminary, a home for the aged and a Baptist camp, which continue to operate in Cuba.

In the years after the revolution, the western convention continued to grow, despite the fact that many Cuban Baptists left the country as socialism took hold. Since 1960 more than 100 pastors from the

western convention have emigrated to the United States. Today 55 Baptist pastors minister through the convention's 106 churches.

Yet work in the western convention is "growing by leaps and bounds," said Ronald Wilson, mission board area director for Brazil and the Caribbean, who has visited Cuba twice a year since 1989.

Convention statistics reflect that growth. Since 1989 baptisms have more than doubled, from 306 to 747. Total membership for 1991 was 6,784, up from the 1990 total of 6,199. About half of the current members are young people ages 16 to 24.

Twenty-three students currently attend the seminary. The churches they represent are overflowing. Cuban Baptist churches are "packed every time the doors open," Wilson said. "There's standing room only."

Wilson observed a "powerful movement of God's Spirit" and "overwhelming openness" to the gospel during his most recent trips to Cuba. He and a group of FMB leaders were last there in late March.

Speidel writes for FMB.

GREED

From page 2

leaders.

Think what he might do if more of us had the spirit of R. G. Lee who, according to his biographer, drove an old Studebaker car and refused high-salaried living for the sake of the gospel and his influence for Christ! He did not die poor, but he had a conscience for his influence! A Baptist barber in Jackson said he thought a big salary for a pastor or leader today should be about \$60,000 and no more than \$80,000. I contend that high salaries distance the man of God from the majority of his flock and cripple his influence among them. Brothers, we are all paid with the tithes and offerings of the people of God, including the poor widow. Where is our respect for the fact?

The other side of the coin of this sin is also traditional with us: some churches and institutions keep their ministers, staff, or professors on substandard levels of support. In schools the administrators receive high salaries while the professors, the "producers," are many times paid a trifle. Why is a professor worth (only) \$20,000-\$30,000? Where is the example of

the administrator? The Bible does not place administrators on a higher plane than apostles, pastors, teachers, and evangelists. This is inequitable distribution and pure biblical injustice.

No, I am not jealous, for I am satisfied with my current level of support from the Foreign Mission Board. Maybe it could be better, but at least I do not feel the board is ruled by stinginess.

Brothers in the ministry, it is time to repent of bad example in the matter of salaries. This, too, is carnality and worldliness. It is certainly not a fruit of the Spirit. It is time to rethink some things and make some changes for the sake of the kingdom.

Harbin is a missionary to Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Mormonism is a cult and misleading many — one year free subscription to a publication that can help you. Write Utah Missions, Inc., P. O. Box 348, Marlow, OK 73055 or call toll free 1-800-654-3992. A ministry of the HMB, SBC.

MOSCOW

From page 7

coordinating the Southern Baptist volunteers, has taken a different tack. The Salvation Army is setting up soup kitchens using existing restaurants and their staffs to cook the U.S.D.A. foods.

Moscow Baptist Church serves lunch every day to staff, which includes what is basically the

Russian convention, its publication staff, and various ministry arms. That lunch is bread, tea, a bowl of slaw, soup, and either a plate of mashed potatoes with a trace of meat in it or a type of pudding. And the church serves people off the street.

(Next week, another piece of the picture — Witness and worship in Moscow, and the Baptist program there.)

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.

15 PASSENGER CHURCH VANS

We have the largest selection of 15 passenger church vans in Mississippi - new and used.

DUB HERRING FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY
DUB HERRING CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH-DODGE

We rent vans by the day, week or month.

Call the Hotline 1-800-776-5497

Ask for DONNIE COUNTS-Fleet Manager, or write to
600 Hwy. 11 South, Picayune, MS 39466

Names in the news

Thursday, May 28, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 2



Harold and Carroll Powell, identical twins, age 54, made professions of faith the same day, on April 13, 1992, and were baptized in the same service on April 26. Just three months before, on Jan. 26, 1992, their mother, Hattie Powell, had been saved and baptized at the age of 72 at the same church, Kemp's Chapel Church, Alcorn Association. Charles Stephenson, pastor, said, "God is still doing great work in our churches!"

John Searcy is now available for pulpit supply, interim, and revivals. He has attended Clarke College and Mississippi College. He can be reached at P. O. Box 43, Rolling Fork, MS 39159, or by calling 1-800-476-4307.

Chris Howard, a Good Hope resident and current senior at Mississippi College, was ordained into the ministry April 12. He is married to Rhonda Alford Howard and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Howard, also of Good Hope. Ordination services were held at New Ireland church, Union, where Howard is pastor. Officiating in the ceremony was Eddie Ruddick, MC professor. He was assisted by Brent Causey, pastor of Good Hope. Participating deacons were Raymond Clark and Clay Thompson. Bill Stout, pastor, Trinity Church, also served on the council.

Senior Adult Corner



Lloyd and Betty Moody (center) were elected Senior Adult Man and Woman of the Year, May 3, by their peers at the annual observance of Senior Adult Day, First, Kosciusko. Pictured with the Moodys are Barry C. Corbett, pastor, and David Hulsey, minister of education. Fifty-one senior adults enrolled in the Back to Bible School May 4-7. The group climaxed the week with a mystery trip May 8.



The Sweet Spirit Singers from Liberty Church, Liberty, will be singing for the Senior Adult III Conference at Gulfshore on May 29 at 6:45 p.m. Buddy McElroy is director. Michael Glenn is pastor of Liberty Church.

ISC seeks vols for service in China

The National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions, and the International Service Corps (a department of the Foreign Mission Board) are seeking volunteers to serve in China, beginning September 1992.

Teachers are needed at the Lanzhou Commercial College, and should be businessmen or economists, willing to make at least a six-month commitment to the assignment.

Contact the International Service Corps of the Foreign Mission Board, 1-800-999-3113.

Applications must be processed no later than July to begin service in September.

Revival dates

Lynn Ray Road, Petal: May 31-June 3; Richard Miley, Richburg Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Charles Walker, Lynn Ray Road Church, music; services, Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. each night; Emmett Boone, pastor.

Centreville, Centreville: May 31-June 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ronny Robinson, evangelist; Ronnie Irwin, music evangelist; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

Smyrna, Hazlehurst: May 31-June 3; Sunday, homecoming day; services, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and afternoon hymn sing; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Thomas Littlejohn, pastor; Johnny Johns, Shady Grove Church, music.

Harmony, Laurel: May 31-June 3; youth revival; Larry Goff, director of BSU, Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, evangelist; Jay Baucom, Wildwood Church, Laurel, music; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Tues., youth pizza blast; Nonnie Jefcoat, pastor.

West Jackson, Jackson: May 31-June 3; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Hugh David Rakestraw, Zion Hill, Alpine, evangelist; Rell Webber, music; Larry Dunlap, pastor.

Carey College sponsors alum luncheon, SBC

The Alumni Association of William Carey College will sponsor a luncheon in Indianapolis during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The luncheon will be held June 9, 12:15 p.m. at the Omni Severin Hotel.

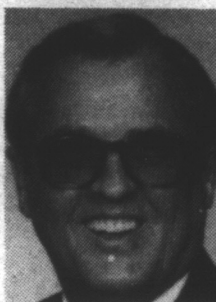
Tickets are \$7.50 and may be reserved by calling the WCC alumni office at 1-800-962-5991, ext. 107, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at the college booth on Monday during the convention.

Staff changes

First Church, Fannin, called Keith Stephens as pastor, effective May 31. A native of Meridian, he is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary. He is presently serving as pastor at St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, La.

Baxterville Church, Lumberton, has called Tommy Odom as pastor, effective May 3. A native of Florida, he received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

Milton Scott recently became pastor of Carson Church in Jeff Davis Association. Scott was formerly pastor of North Morton Church, Scott Association.



Norris

David Norris has been called as pastor of Good Hope Church, Louisville. He was formerly pastor of Wayside Church in Scobey.

First Church, Bruce, has called Donald R. McMaster as minister of music and education, effective May 15. A native of Dewitt, Ark., he received his education at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Southern Seminary. His previous place of service was

Palma Ceia Church, Tampa, Fla.

Spring Hill Church, Copiah Association, has called Harry L. Barnes as pastor. His previous place of service was Trace Ridge Church in Ridgeland. A native of Benton, he received his education at Mobile College, Mobile, Ala., and New Orleans Seminary.

Johnny Hutchison has resigned as pastor of Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill, to become pastor of Highland Drive Church, Jonesboro, Ark., effective May 31.

Thomas L. Pelphrey has resigned as minister of education at First Church, Columbus, to move to Third Church, Owensboro, Ky., as associate pastor for education-administration, effective June 1.

Vacation Bible Schools

Hondo Church, Hollandale: June 1-5; community-wide VBS; 9-11:30 a.m. daily; Greg Williams, pastor.

Homecomings

Galilee (Copiah): May 31; services, 11 a.m.; lunch following; Holmes Carlisle, Morton, former pastor and retired DOM for Scott County, guest speaker; Leroy Stuart, Clinton, music; Michael Grenn, pastor.

Second, Kosciusko: May 31; Danny Dodds, pastor, will bring message; covered dish luncheon served; singing in the afternoon.

Mt. Olive (Carroll/Montgomery): May 31; 10:30 a.m.; Tommy Clark, pastor, speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall, 12 noon; fellowship after lunch.

Friendship, Brookhaven: May 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon service; Truett Smith, DOM, Punta Gorda, Fla., speaker; Harold L. Smith, Friendship Church,

Mission church needs furniture

If any church has pews, pulpit furniture, communion tables, and communion set that could be donated to a new mission church, please contact Richard Brogan, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800, ext. 3967.

music; Wiley Reid, pastor.

Duffee, Little Rock: May 31; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:30; singing, 1:30 p.m. with SonRise singers, Philadelphia; no night services; John West, pastor.

Highland, Crystal Springs: May 31; beginning 9:45 a.m.; Max Jones, New Hebron, speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; singing at 1:15; Vann Windom, pastor; offerings to go toward retirement of remodeling fund debt.

CLASSIFIED

RATE 50c per word \$5.00 minimum
Cash with order except on contract
advertising. Include name, address, zip
code, and phone number in word count.
No blind ads.

MOVING, MUST SELL: Hammond X-66 organ with tone cabinet, excellent condition, sacrifice \$3,000. Delores Arnett, 3102 Prince George Rd., Hattiesburg, MS 39402. 601-268-3493.

FOR SALE: Used pews fair condition; portable baptistry good condition. Contact (601) 563-9429.

TOUR OF SPAIN, Portugal, Tangier, including Expo '92 Seville. September 3-15. Call for brochure. Christian Travelers 1-800-972-8952.

Mississippi is well represented among missionaries in Italy

Southern Baptist missionaries in Italy recently held their annual mission meeting in the medieval town of Gubbio in central Italy. There were six Mississippians and one adopted Mississippian present.

The adopted Mississippian is Marylu Moore, missionary kid who grew up in Italy. She graduated from Blue Mountain College. Marylu is the director of the orientation of new missionaries in Italy. She has completed 29 years of missionary service.

James (Jim) and Charlotte Watts have completed 25 years of missionary service. Jim works with the Department of Evangelism of the Italian Baptist Union in the music ministry. Charlotte is organist at the Florence Baptist Church. Jim was elected chairman of the mission for the coming year.

Bob and Flora Holifield have served almost 30 years in Italy. Bob serves as treasurer/business manager and property administrator of the mission. He is also pastor of the

Trastevere Italian Baptist Church. Flora serves as the bookkeeper for the mission and as press representative.

Hal and Lou Ann (Green) Lee, former missionaries to France, were also present at the mission meeting. They have completed 30 years of missionary service. Lou Ann serves as the director of the European language and orientation program of the Foreign Mission Board. Hal serves as interim area director for Europe.

"Hal and Lou Ann generate confidence and good will and thus fulfill a stabilizing force through their effective leadership," said Mrs. Holifield. "Mississippi Baptists are well represented in European missions. We are thankful for the prayer support and the financial support of Mississippi Baptists who have stood by their missionaries with faithfulness and who are highly esteemed and appreciated by all of us who serve overseas."

23 International Service Corps personnel assigned to jobs

RICHMOND, Va. — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has assigned 23 people to work overseas through the International Service Corps.

That number includes 16 Southern Baptists who are attending an orientation May 15-30 at the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. Their assignments will last from four months to two years. Eighteen people are assigned as married couples.

Three workers have been assigned to work through Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Mississippians assigned are:

Tanya Riley: Most recently employed as an administrative

secretary at Mississippi College School of Law, Jackson. Current address: 975 Garvin St., Apt. 4A, Jackson, Miss. 39206. Education: Mississippi College, Clinton, B.A. '90. Church: First, Jackson. Hometown: Starkville. Assigned to Cooperative Services International as a secretary in East Asia for two years.

Brent Russell: Most recently was a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Mexico. Current address: P. O. Box 1522, Mississippi State, Miss. 39762. Education: Mississippi State University, B.S. expected May '92. Church: Calvary, Starkville. Hometown: Starkville. Assigned to health education in Paraguay for one year.

Alcorn Association sponsors crusade

An Alcorn Baptist Association sponsored evangelistic crusade May 10-13 has been termed as "highly successful" by the Steering Committee Chairman, Randy Bostick, pastor of Oakland Church, Corinth. A total of 235 decisions with 163 of them being professions of faith were registered. Total attendance was between six and seven thousand with approximately 2,500 present on Sunday evening.

The evangelist was James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga. Special guests were Jerry Clower, Sheldon Gooch, and Rick Stanley. A one hundred voice choir sang each evening under the direction of Jim Pinkston, minister of music at Oakland Church.

According to Ed Gandy, director of missions for Alcorn Association, the pastors and people of the Southern Baptist churches there and several other evangelistic churches which participated did a fantastic job getting ready for the crusade and then supporting it. He reports that the crusade expense budget was exceeded and that a spirit of revival is in many of the churches in the county.

Revival results

Bunker Hill Church, Columbia: April 26-29; Matt Buckles, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, preaching; Paul Powell, Columbia, leading music; James T. Ray III, pastor; three professions of faith; five rededications.

The Home of Grace, Vancleave: April 6-10; 17 professions of faith; Chaplain Colonel Fred Ogilvie and his wife, Margaret, counseled at the Men's Home, the Haven, and the Shelter.

Tupelo's Steve F. Bain earns doctorate

Steve Frank Bain, pastor of the East Heights Church, Tupelo, received his doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia (Metro Atlanta), Georgia on May 8. Graduation ceremonies were held at the Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga. Born in Hardin County, Ga., he is the son of the late William Frank Bain and Ann Bain of Savannah. Prior to his present pastorate, Bain served pastorates in Tennessee. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southern Seminary.

Just for the Record

Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, surpassed its goal of \$2,500 for home missions by giving a total of \$3,585.40 through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the largest amount in the church's history. During "All the Way in One Day," \$3,370.40 of the total was given. Mary Helen Reynolds is WMU director.

East Side Church, Pelahatchie, is sponsoring Bazaar Day on June 6, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Coghlan's Parking Lot, Pelahatchie. Events will include arts and crafts, cake sale, garage sale, and chicken plates (Jim Buck Ross cooking team), hamburgers, or hamburger plates.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will have its fourth anniversary on May 31. Dell Gann, pastor, County Line Church, Rankin County, will be the guest speaker. Jackie McGuffee will render special music. Dinner will be served following the service. Henry J. Bennett is pastor.

First Church of Sand Hill will have a flag dedication service on May 31. The service will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the church grounds immediately after a fellowship meal and morning worship services. Featured speakers for the event will be Wilton Bennett of First Church, Sand Hill, Jimmy Hood of Ellisville, Senator Trent Lott, and Aubry Lucas, president of USM. Also featured will be the Color Guard from the United States Naval Base in Meridian and from the Richton National Guard Unit. Special music will be provided by Harold Irby, The Sunshine Choir, Jackie McLeod, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Bennett.

Not the culprit

Sometimes we judge others wrongly, by circumstantial evidence. Consider the story of the fellow who was hanged for stealing a pearl necklace. Next day a bird's nest blew down, not far from the gallows, and in it was the stolen necklace.

Mary Lillian Whitten of 308 N. Wayne St., Macon, is looking for the source of that story. Can anyone out there help her?

Talk not of wasted affection; affection never was wasted. If it enrich not the heart of another, its waters, returning back to their springs, like the rain, shall fill them full of refreshment. — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Friendship is the only thing in the world concerning the usefulness of which all mankind are agreed. — Cicero

"Tell me what you eat, and I'll tell you what you are," said a lunch-counter philosopher. Whereupon a meek little man, sitting a few stools away, called to the waitress, "Cancel my order for shrimp salad."

The Hollis Bryant RA chapter of Mt. Moriah Church, Bruce, and the Ira Alley RA chapter of Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce, recently combined efforts for a mission project for world hunger and collecting canned goods for the Calhoun Association food pantry. The RAs also participated in a Bible trivia competition.

Top picture: Mt. Moriah RA chapter, back row, left to right: Jeremy McCormick, Wesley Harris, Jason White, Cary Sexton, Craig Griffin, Scott Cobb, Corey Fortner, counselors, Chris Cobb, Joey Murphree, Tim Swords. Third row: Brad Hensley, Matt Bollinger, Andy Fortner, Josh Hughes, Jeremy Hughes. Second row: Luke Murphree, Colby Bollinger, Matt Swords. Front row: B. J. Farmer, Cory Griffin, Benjamin Bagwell, Tony Griffin, Andrew Bagwell. Not pictured: Randy Griffin, RA director.

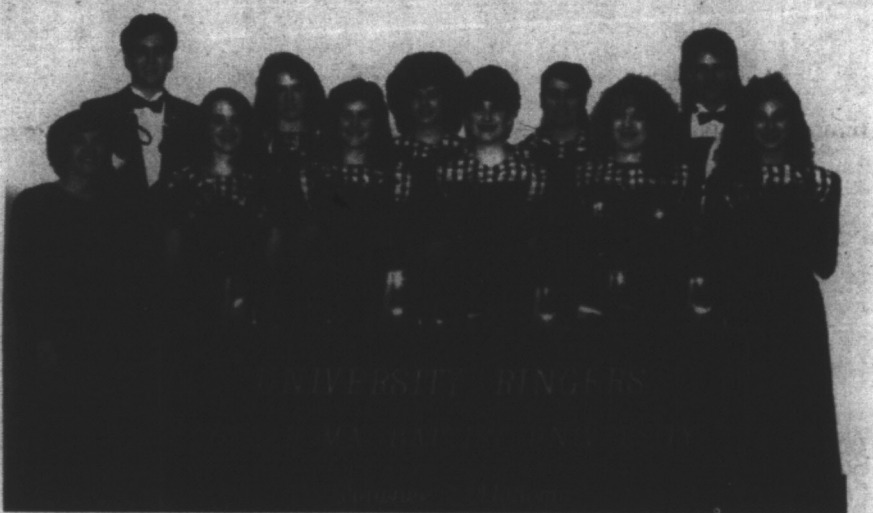
Lower picture: Mt. Comfort RA chapter, back row, left to right: Tim Harrelson, Will Turner, Jason Smallwood, Robert Sutherland, Nicholas Gibson. Front row: Lee Melton, Mark Wright, Casey Brassfield, Marshall Box, Alton Griffin. Counselors not pictured: Tim Sutherland, Russell Griffin; RA director Rick Griffin.



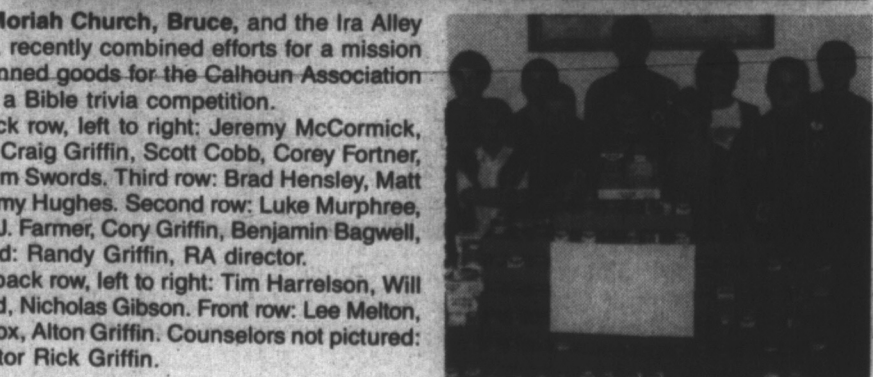
Whitesand Church, Prentiss, held a recognition service for thirteen GAs. Those receiving recognition were (back row, left to right): Cassie Stewart, Sarah Coulter, Jennifer Hall, Erin Hayman, Jodie Breeland, and Amanda Tullos. Front row (left to right): Michelle Griffith, Nikki McNease, Jenny Wigginton, Ashley Shows, Amanda Shows, Charity Lee, and Memorie Shivers.



Eighteen GAs and six leaders represented four churches at the Leflore associational GA conference at North Greenwood Church, Greenwood. Bill Colston, missionary to Korea, pictured, was guest speaker. GAs also heard the reading of *The Lottie Moon Storybook*, written by Carolyn Jones and illustrated by Debbie Ellis of Greenwood. Colston wrote each girl's name in Korean. Mrs. Jones gave each girl a copy of the Lottie Moon book. Gerald Welch is director of missions; Mrs. A. T. Neal is associational WMU director; Susan Holly is associational GA director.



University Ringers of Oklahoma Baptist University will perform a concert at Parkway Church, Jackson, 6 p.m., June 3. Mary Kay Parrish, associate professor of music theory at OBU, directs the ringers.



LIFE AND WORK

Professing, inconsistent



By Lola M. Autry
Revelation 3:1-6

When Jesus was having John write the Revelation, Sardis was a degenerate city built by "going down the hill" people. The city had twice before been conquered because no watchman was stationed to warn of an approaching enemy. Jesus is telling the Christians at the Sardis church that they face destruction and desolation because they are not watching. In their complacency, Jesus tells them they have a name that seems to be alive, but they are a dead church. They are only going through the motions of loving the Lord and obeying him. He says he knows their works. In many churches today, Christians are going through the motions but nothing happens because their works are not consistent with his teachings. Jesus cautions in verse 2: "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die...."

The risen Lord: Source of life (v. 1a-b). Jesus who has the seven stars (the ministers of the gospel) and the seven Spirits of God (the Holy Spirit and his powers — see Isaiah 11:2) is the risen Lord. He is the source of all life. As such, he has the right to condemn or confirm, to praise or to judge our lives.

Accusation: Dead instead of alive (v. 1c). Many times I have heard my preacher husband say in warning people of their laxity in obedience to Christ's commands: "One of these days you are going to wake up dead." What did he mean? He meant the same things Jesus is saying here — you have a saved soul and a lost life. There is a difference in being a professing Christian and a Christian with a consistent Christ-like lifestyle. Jesus says in essence, "You are called by my name, but you do not live by it."

Exhortation: Come to life (vv. 2-3). Jesus spells out the remedy that will cure this lack of mature Christian living. Be watchful. I was listening to a tape today in which a preacher was calling all Christians to be aware of the dangers of satanism and witchcraft, which are becoming a distinct part of the lives of many young people. He expressed his amazement at the number of people who brushed off this distinct danger as simply propaganda. Jesus must be amazed and disappointed at the number of Christians who brush off the distinct danger of disobedience and dishonor to his name by the way they live. He calls us to come back, to return to our first love, to watch for wayside dangers and for lifestyle tangents that can break down our loving relationships with him. We are cautioned to hold fast, and to repent.

Cecil B. Murphy explained the meaning of "not every person who calls me 'Lord, Lord!'" by paraphrasing its Hebrew meaning. He says it can be interpreted as, "Just talking about your faith isn't enough. Don't tell me you believe. Show me that I'm Lord." Jesus admonishes: remember what you have heard and received, and hold fast, and repent. The alternative is God's judgement.

Promise: Reward for a worthy life (vv. 4-6). Since early times God has always had a few who were faithful to him. Jesus, the risen Lord, is not condemning these. He paints a great word picture of their walk with him. They shall walk with him in white. White represents purity. The dyeing industry originated in Sardis, and in this city a person dressed in white would stand out.

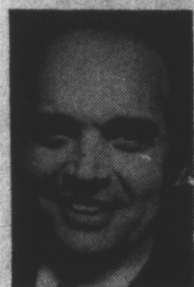
Christians who are totally committed to Christ will be different. A person who has surrendered his life without holding back anything will have a different facial expression, a different speech, a different outlook on life. A godly love for all people will be shown every day. Faith, hope, and love will be guidelines for any of life's crises — all because Jesus says in verse 4, "and they shall walk with me in white because they are worthy."

A little girl was called to come to her mother. Four times she was called, but did not come. Exasperated, the mother went to her. "Didn't you hear me call you?" she asked. The child said, "Mother, you know I can't hear you if I'm not listening." Jesus says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church.

BIBLE BOOK

Principles of giving



By Charles Nestor
2 Corinthians 9:3-15

Principles are rules which provide guidance in making decisions. Paul offers principles to assist the Gentiles in being led to give in a manner that honored God. The same principles will assist us in giving for the glory of God.

I. The need to have the offering ready (9:3-5). Paul was quite open in his communication with the Corinthians. They had been very excited about making up an offering to help the church in Jerusalem, but had been lax in carrying out their goal. Paul had complete confidence in their preparation, but he was concerned about their follow-through. Therefore, he sent Titus and two others to help them. He knew the offering would be a blessing to the people at Jerusalem, but it would also bless the Corinthians and lead people to praise God. Paul wanted them to give because of love in their hearts for God and other people.

It is God's plan and desire for his people to give and be ready to participate in every opportunity. We are to be ready to give when we are given the opportunity. It is not to be done because we feel obligation or that we are legally bound to give. Our giving is to be because we love God. We are also to be honest in our giving. God does not honor those who pretend to give and do not. We are to be ready to give when we go to church to worship or when we observe our neighbor in need.

II. Principles related to the act of giving (9:6-10). Paul applies the principle of sowing and reaping to giving. The more seed you plant, the more you harvest. The principle also applies in giving an offering. However, there is no guarantee that the harvest will be material objects; it may be spiritual. In fact, the offering Paul was collecting was for those who had sacrificed for God and were afterward in material poverty. Paul wanted these people to understand that the spiritual blessings outweighed the material. The Corinthians would have satisfaction in knowing the Jerusalem Christians were taken care of, and in their giving they would be obeying Christ. Paul made it clear that giving is to be a serious decision. Every person is to make up his own mind. It is to be in a cheerful manner and not with a grudge in our hearts. God loves a cheerful giver. What kind of a giver are you?

Paul advocated that God would provide for those who had sincere hearts for giving; God's grace is sufficient. Paul did not teach them to be apathetic, but to desire God and his will. When we desire to serve God, he supplies us with the means of service. Paul quoted from Psalm 112 a description of the godly man. The righteous person does not keep all he has but shares with others in need. That was what Paul was requesting the Corinthians to do. The idea was to give on the basis of what they had to help meet the needs in the lives of those at Jerusalem.

We have the same responsibility. If we obey God, then we will give to help meet needs around the world. That includes leading the unsaved of our community to know Christ, whatever the cost. It means giving to help meet the physical needs of people wherever the needs arise. I do not know of a better way to do this than through our Cooperative Mission Program.

III. Principles related to the results of giving (9:11-15). Paul was sure God would answer his prayer, and the Corinthians would be enriched by their giving. Their giving would produce practical blessings, but it would also be an offering of thanksgiving to God. Their giving would be proof of the reality of their faith; the offering would bear witness. Their witness would lead others to seek a like faith in Christ. It would also lead others to pray for them because it was obvious God was at work in their lives.

Paul concluded by giving thanks to God for his gift of salvation which cannot be explained by words. God set the ultimate example for us to follow. His example is to be the principle by which we give. We are not to give to repay him for what he has done for us. We could never give enough. We are just to love and obey him; give as he blesses. Is your giving record pleasing to God?

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

In light of the future



By Bobby Williamson
2 Peter 3:3-14

In light of Christ's return, how are we as believers to live our daily lives? I do not pretend to know the time of his return, but I do know this; we are one day closer today than we were yesterday. According to scripture the return of Christ is certainly imminent. Sadly though we do not hear many sermons today on the return of Christ. I am convinced that if we as believers were anxiously awaiting his return, that we would spend a great amount of our time on our tiptoes looking for him, instead of allowing our feet to tread where they should not. Many times we have the misconception that the delay of his coming is the forerunner of a pardon, and that somehow if judgement is not hurriedly executed, it will be reversed. From our lesson this week we must come to understand that his return is certain, and with it, judgement.

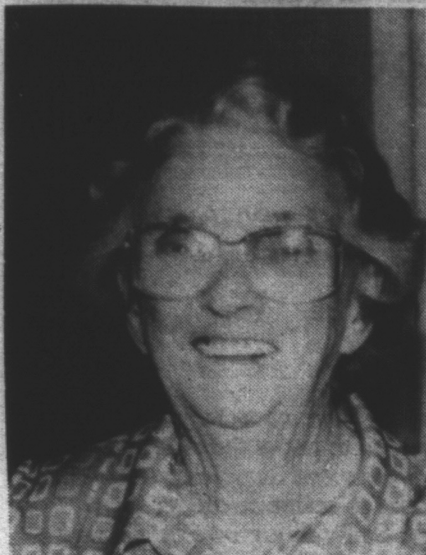
I. Scoffers' denial of Christ's second coming (3:3-4). Verse 3 indicated that in the last days there will be scoffers. Who are these scoffers? They are those who make a mock of sin, and of salvation from it. We have those in our society today who laugh at the idea that the only way to be saved is through Jesus. Recently I saw a survey that stated that a large majority of Americans believed that all religions worshipped the same God. If this is the case, then a majority of Americans today scoff at the idea of salvation only through Christ. This is totally contradictory to what the Word of God says, for there is only one way to inherit eternal life, through Christ. These same scoffers, or people who would deny Christ's second coming, should heed Peter's warning in these verses.

II. The flood as an illustration of certain final judgement (3:5-7). In verses 5-7 Peter asserted that the flood illustrated certain, final judgement. With this being the case we should each be challenged to prepare ourselves for that judgement. If you will study the judgments of God in the past, you will find that each one is more terrible than those which went before: the old world was destroyed by water, but this is reserved unto fire. Those who now scoff at a future judgement shall find it a day of vengeance and utter destruction. This should also rekindle our zeal to teach and preach a pure, unadulterated gospel. We must reach a lost and dying world with the truth. We as Christians must live our lives for Christ daily, for judgement is certain. We must not be deterred from preaching and teaching the judgement of God.

III. The coming of the day of the Lord (3:8-10). In verses 8-10 Peter declared that despite seeming delay, the day of the Lord would come suddenly. God kept the time that he had appointed for the delivering of Israel out of Egypt, and thus he will keep the day he has appointed to judge the world. There are so many in our world that seem to be content with living in an unconverted state. There are so many Christians that are not living godly lives and have no anticipation of the coming of Christ and the judgement of God. If you were to ask the average Sunday morning congregation how many of them arose that morning thinking that Christ might come today, there would be very few, if any, who would say they did. The Scripture tells us that he will come when we least expect him, and as a thief in the night. Peter's assurance that the day of the Lord will come should strengthen our belief in Christ's return.

IV. Believers living in light of Christ's coming (3:11-14). In these verses Peter exhorts believers to be at peace, to be spotless, and to be blameless in anticipation of Christ's second coming. The coming of the day of the Lord is what every Christian must hope for and earnestly expect, for it is a day when Christ shall appear in the glory of the Father, and exemplify his divinity to even those who scoffed at him. Let us this week commit to live godly lives as we wait for the Lord to come again.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.



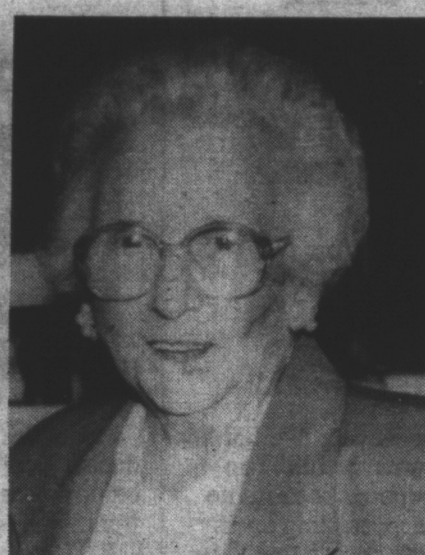
Midian Lawson



Carmel Nunnery



Lois Stewart



Hettie Williams



Maggie Gordon

WMU salutes the "Gillsburg six"

By Anne W. McWilliams

Of eight Baptist Women enrolled in Gillsburg Church's Woman's Missionary Union, six (all widows) are between the ages of 80 and 90. Five of the six have been members of this same group for 65 or 70 years. The church, Paul Pearson, pastor, honored them in a special service earlier this year. Helen Price, camp director at Garaywa, was guest speaker.

"If all of us die out and no one is there to take our places, it will be bad," said Lois Stewart, 87, who is mission study chairman. They see the need for growth, and for more young members.

In the 30s, when money was especially scarce, they often sold chickens and eggs and gave the income, or a tithe of it, to missions offerings. "Some gave their Sunday eggs," recalled Hettie Williams — "eggs laid on Sunday."

In the 20s and 30s, cars were scarce, too, as well as babysitters. Bessie Belle Wilson, 85, who reared five boys, said she often walked to WMU meetings at the church, carrying a baby.

The Gillsburg Woman's Missionary Union includes Baptist Women, Baptist Young Women, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassadors, for promotion of missions education.

Its current mission action project is delivery of personal items to residents of a nursing home. Another

project, still bearing fruit, was a jail ministry. Four young men from out of state were jailed in the area for a robbery; they stayed a year, awaiting trial. The WMU delivered personal items to them, plus food and a Christian witness. Now, years later, some still get letters from the young men whose lives they evidently influenced for good.

At times, to raise money for the church building fund, the WMU made and sold sandwiches.

A mission action project that Bessie Wilson will never forget was the day the group was on the way to visit a needy family. Her mother, also a member then, tripped over a cattle guard, broke her hip, and as a result died.

Maggie Stewart Gordon, the WMU director, 90, said that when she was a youth she felt God calling her to be a missionary, and she wanted to study at New Orleans Seminary. However, her mother said she didn't want her "as a young and innocent girl to go to live in that wicked city." Looking back, she says, "I'm glad my mother was strict."

In 1923 she married and moved to her husband's "homeplace,"

where she still lives. Like her mother, she became a member of Gillsburg WMU and has been a member of it ever since. Also she has taught Sunday School at Gillsburg 40 or 50 years. Thus her call to missions has been carried out in her own town and county. Now she is next to the oldest member of her church, though no one watching her or eating one of the festive meals she cooks would ever guess it.

"I enjoy the Royal Service programs," she said, "and I use the Calendar of Prayer every day."

*"I believe in WMU.
I believe the Bible
teaches missions."
— Lois Stewart*

Bessie Belle Wilson, another who felt called to special service, studied at Hillman College, her expenses paid by the Mississippi Association, and then at New Orleans Seminary, working to pay her way. Home from seminary, she married in June of 1926. Her service in religious education and WMU work she rendered through her local church as Sunday School director and GA leader for many years. She said from her front porch swing, "Our mission work in the community, state, and world has the support of Woman's Missionary Union." She's belonged since age 17.

Hettie Williams, who joined Gillsburg WMU at age 27, going there from Mt. Vernon community agrees that "it is a good organization." Her husband died 15 years ago of leukemia. Except for when he was sick, she has gone regularly to the meetings. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, she said, as she was leaving for the beauty shop, are "all faithful in the church."

Sisters Carmel Nunnery, 87, and Midian Lawson, 85, live together now, pictures of their late husbands on the living room wall. Carmel, who fell at church in February and broke an arm and a leg, said she's been in WMU 54 years, a lot of that time in Arcola Church. She's been back at Gillsburg, the place of her youth, for only a few years. At Arcola, she said, RAs and GAs would come to the church from school for their meetings. She would give them something to eat and take them home afterward. Midian, lifelong resident of Gillsburg, mother and grandmother, was one of those who used to walk a mile to church.

Lois Stewart, who has a talent for growing flowers, joined the Gillsburg WMU in 1928 when she and her husband returned to Mississippi following his job's fold-up in the Texas oil fields.

"I always tithed," she said. "Back in the '30s we had to pay 10 cents



Bessie Belle Wilson

dues each month to WMU (this was given to the missions offering) but some months I did not have that much to pay."

One of her grandsons, Jamie Stewart, is preparing to be a missionary, she said. He is music and youth director at Union Church at Seminary.

Highest number enrolled in the Gillsburg WMU, she recalled, was around 50. "I believe in WMU," she said. "I believe the Bible teaches missions."

Ten steps prepare churches for evangelistic VBS

By Sarah Zimmerman

LAS VEGAS (BP) — As churches across the nation prepare for Vacation Bible Schools, they can take at least 10 steps to be sure the rite of summer is an evangelistic tool.

Art Burcham, manager of the general officers program section for the Baptist Sunday School Board, outlined the 10 steps during a Home Mission Board-sponsored school of evangelism and church growth in Las Vegas.

First, Bible school workers must understand the relationship of a child to God. Children are not ready for conversion at the

same age because children are unique and develop at different paces, Burcham said.

To make Bible school evangelistic, churches must promote it to unsaved families.

An essential element is for the pastor to be involved in the Bible school's evangelistic effort. The pastor should not be the only one responsible for evangelism, but "in most situations the church will not rise above its pastor," Burcham said.

Bible school workers need to be trained to share their faith individually and to teach evangelistically, Burcham said.

The Bible school program needs to include an evangelistic service when students are given opportunity to respond to the gospel, Burcham said. The Sunday School Board offers several resources to help churches plan an effective evangelistic service without causing children to make a decision from peer pressure, he said.

As with any situation, Burcham said it is important to counsel individually with Bible school students who make a profession of faith.

The evangelistic thrust can continue after Bible school is over by conducting transfer enrollment. This involves asking children who came to Bible school but are not enrolled in Sunday School if they would like to be enrolled.

The next step, then, is to teach evangelistically in Sunday School, Burcham said.

Finally, visiting non-Christian parents of children who came to Bible school should be given priority in the church's visitation program.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 5-28
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL 90 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205